Epidemiological investigation is a process that involves collecting and analyzing data to identify the cause of illness and implement measures to prevent further illness. It is often used in response to acute public health problems, such as disease outbreaks.

Here are some steps involved in an epidemiological investigation:

- Determine if an outbreak is present
- Confirm the diagnosis
- Define a case
- Search for cases
- Generate hypotheses
- Test hypotheses
- Draw conclusions
- Compare hypotheses with established facts
- Communicate findings
- Execute prevention measures

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Epidemiologists are public health workers who play a critical role in identifying trends and patterns in disease and injury. They use the "Five W's" (Who, What, When, Where, and Why) to achieve the goals of epidemiology, which are to prevent and reverse negative health outcomes.

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